GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5040
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2005
TILTING OF MINARETS AND TOWERS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government is aware that some of the minarets and towers in the country are reported to be tilting;

(b)if so, whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard;

(c)if so, the findings thereof; and

(d)the follow-up action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER FOR INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE(SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a)Yes, Sir. Archaeological Survey of India is aware of the tilting of minarets of Taj Mahal and Qutab Minar, Delhi.

(b)Survey of India has carried out periodical surveys to check verticality of four minarets of Taj Mahal since 1941 and recently Geodetic and Research Branch of Survey of India has carried out studies and observations of verticality in March, 2005.

Survey of India has also carried out studies of tilting of Qutab Minar from 1975-1994 and recently studies have been carried out in April, 2005.

(c)From the triangulation, traverse and levelling data, Survey of India has concluded that the dome and four minarets of Taj Mahal remained quite stable in plan as well as in elevation from 1940 to 1994.

Based on the triangulation, traversing and levelling data which was observed from 1975-1994, Survey of India, vide the report dated 16.02.1998 confirmed that the extent of tilt of Qutab Minar has been very negligible being at the rate of 9-10 arc seconds per year.

(d)Survey report of Taj Mahal and Qutab Minar conducted in March/April, 2005 is awaited. Future course of action will be decided on receipt of the same.